

# VENEZUELA

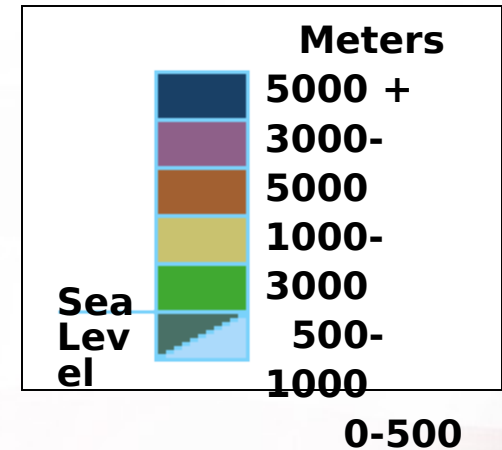


- Middle income country
- Well-developed transportation infrastructure
- Natural disasters
  - Earthquake-prone
  - Torrential rains



# Venezuela: Environmental Issues

- Topography
- Climate



**Tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands**

**Andes Mountains and Maracaibo Lowlands in northwest; central plains (llanos); Guiana Highlands in southeast**

**lowest point: Caribbean Sea  
0 m**

**highest point: Pico Bolivar 5,600 m**

# Venezuela: Environmental Issues

- Industry
  - Petroleum production and refining, coal and metal mining, and agriculture
  - Gold and diamond mining in Bolivar state
- Water
  - Surface water contaminated with raw sewage and industrial waste
  - Surface water contaminated by pipeline spills in Colombia
  - Arsenic, mercury and cyanide contamination due to mining

# Venezuela: Environmental Issues

- Food
  - Mercury contamination of freshwater fish due to gold mining
- Air
  - Localized pollution near urban and industrial centers
- Soil
  - Localized contamination near industry and waste disposal sites



# Venezuela: Environmental Issues

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
  - Water contaminated with raw sewage or runoff
- Greatest long-term environmental health risks
  - Mercury contamination of water and food

# Venezuela: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Intermediate risk country
- Diseases of greatest risk
  - Food and water-borne: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A
  - Vector-borne: dengue fever, malaria, Venezuelan equine encephalitis

# Venezuela: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Diseases of potential risk
  - Food and water-borne: brucellosis, cholera, protozoal diarrhea, typhoid/paratyphoid fever
  - Vector-borne: Chagas disease, Eastern equine encephalitis, leishmaniasis, mansonellosis, onchocerciasis, yellow fever
  - Sexually transmitted: gonorrhea/chlamydia, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS
  - Water contact: leptospirosis, schistosomiasis
  - Soil contact: Venezuelan hemorrhagic fever
  - Respiratory: meningococcal meningitis, tuberculosis
  - Animal contact: rabies